

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-22, 24-28, 30-34 and 36 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 21, 25, 27, 31 and 33 have been amended. Claim 36 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2, 9 and 16 stand objected to for antecedent basis problems. These claims have been amended to correct these problems, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 13-15, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakuma, U.S. Patent No. 5,530,461. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 6, 8, 13 and 15 have been amended to clarify that the memory unit is built into the developing agent cartridge and that the memory unit stores information concerning the service life of the developing agent cartridge. Applicants submit that Sakuma fails to teach or suggest these features.

Sakuma fails to teach or suggest a memory unit in the ink ejecting head itself for storing information concerning the service life of the ink ejecting head. In fact, this is admitted by the Examiner because the Examiner asserts that ROM 35 and memory 37 correspond to the claimed memory unit. This can be seen in Fig. 1, where the ROM 35 and memory 37 are separate from the ink ejecting head 15.

Sakuma also fails to teach or suggest that information concerning the service life of the ink ejecting head is stored in the ink ejecting head itself. Rather, when the head watching means 43 detects that the ink ejecting head 15 has been removed as a result of the water repellent layer reaching the end of its life, a flag K is reset to "0" by the initialing means 44, which is the same process which is carried out when a new ink ejecting head is loaded (col. 6, lines 26-37). Thus, information regarding the service life of the ink ejecting head cannot be stored in the ink ejecting head itself.

Accordingly, the features of claims 1, 6, 8, 13 and 15 are not taught or suggested by Sakuma. Claims 3, 5, 7, 14, 18 and 20 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 9 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakuma in view of Haines, U.S. Patent No. 6,808,255. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 9 and 16 are dependent claims which depend from claims 1, 8 and 15, respectively, and are allowable at least due to the facts that Sakuma fails to teach or suggest the features of these independent claims and Haines fails to overcome the deficiencies of Sakuma. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 21, 22, 24-28, 30-34, 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips, U.S. Patent No. 6,817,693 in view of Sakuma. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that Phillips teaches all of the features of claim 21 except for "wherein said safety mode is to execute a printing process with an increased cleaning frequency, an increased calibration frequency or an increased communication frequency with a control center compared to those of a standard mode." The Examiner asserts that Sakuma teaches this feature at col. 6, lines 55-62, and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a safety mode in which a printing process with an increased cleaning frequency is executed. The Examiner further states that motivation for modifying Phillips to include this safety mode with increased cleaning frequency instead of displaying a warning or shutting down would be to extend the life of the cartridge while minimizing the decrease in printing quality which would normally occur until the print head is replaced. Applicants respectfully submit that one would not have been motivated to modify Phillips in view of Sakuma to recreate the claimed invention.

Phillips relates to a printing system which uses printing material cartridges with a memory to uniquely identify the contents of the printing device cartridge and optimize printing parameters for use with the printing material (col. 2, lines 3-6). Phillips teaches that either a warning is displayed or the printer is shut down if the manufacturer identifier does not conform to a pre-defined standard (col. 5, lines 65-67). Phillips discloses an embodiment where the manufacturer identifier is compared to a manufacturer list to determine if the cartridge manufacturer is an approved manufacturer (col. 6, lines 6-8). If the manufacturer is not an approved manufacturer, a response action is initiated (see step 108 in Fig. 4). Although Phillips does disclose that the printer parameter settings can be optimized to conform to the recognized manufacturer which corresponds with the identified manufacturer identifier, this only occurs if the manufacturer is deemed to be an approved manufacturer (see col. 6, lines 13-18 and Fig. 4). Thus, Phillips teaches only that a warning is issued or the printer is shut down if the manufacturer is not an approved manufacturer.

Sakuma teaches that a setting can be made whereby the print head is cleaned more frequently, but this is only in response to a message indicating that the print head needs replacing (col. 6, lines 55-60). One of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Phillips to clean the print head more frequently if it is determined that the manufacturer is not an approved manufacturer. Phillips teaches that the printer is shut down or a warning is issued because a cartridge from a non-approved manufacturer may damage the printer. While cleaning the print head more frequently may increase the life expectancy of the cartridge in Sakuma's device, merely modifying the device to clean the print head more frequently would not prevent the damage of concern in Phillips. There is nothing to gain in Phillips by extending the life of the cartridge because that cartridge may damage Phillips's device and Phillips is specifically directed to avoiding use of that unapproved cartridge. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Phillips to clean the print head more frequently rather than shutting down the

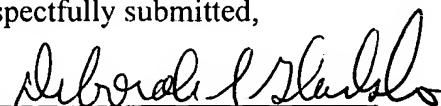
printer or issuing a warning. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Phillips in view of Sakuma to recreate the claimed invention.

Claims 25, 27, 31 and 33 all recite the above-discussed feature from claim 21 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons. The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772034100.

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